THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The Special Operation Group of the Shillong City Police arrested five persons on the 7th and 8th January, 1995, in Shillong and seized 3.5 Kg. of sodium Di-Uranate (Yellow Cake) The destination of this material is not yet known.

(c) Yes, Sir. The material confiscated by the police authorities of Maharajganj (U.P.) was analysed as "RESIN" — an organic compound and not uranium. The Meghalaya police have registered a case under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

Visit of US team to Indian Atomic Plants

589. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US team had visited Tarapur plant and other plants in the recent past:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the outcome of the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) Dr. Ivan Selin, Chairman, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) heading a delegation visited India from 12-17 February, 1995 at the invitation of Chairman, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), Government of India. The US delegation made a reciprocal visit after meetings in US in October/November, 1994 when a delegation led by Chairman, AERB visited the US. Following the visit of the US Energy Secretary to India in July last year and her meeting with Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, Government of India, a dialogue was opened between the US and India on cooperation in nuclear safety. The USNRC delegation visited Narora Atomic Power Station, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Tarapur Atomic Power Station where they had discussions with senior officials of AERB, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and BARC. Areas of mutual interest, including generic fire safety issues, and other safety-related issues were covered during these discussions.

Use of low curished uranium in Tarapur Atomic power plant

590. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether low enriched uranium is proopsed to be used at Tarapur Atomic Power Plant; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme, indicating its technical feasibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The reactors are originally designed to use Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) of 2.4% average enrichment, (maximum 2.66% enriched). This is already being used at Tarapur. The material, in the form of Uranium Hexafluoride gas, is used to fabricate the fuel bundles.

Import of fuel for taps draw China

591. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently enterd into an agreement with China for the supply of enriched uranium for Tarapur reactor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(e) what are the conditionalities for the supply of enriched uranium by China;

(d) whether Government have received low enriched uranium fuel from China; if so, the quantum thereof;

(e) whether Government have not developed technical know-how to produce the fuel within the country rather than to import the same from various countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (d) A commercial contract was concluded between the Department of Atomic Energy and China Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation for supply of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS).

A consignment of LEU from China was received in the Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad on 5.1.1995, where the LEU will be converted to fuel assemblies for use in TAPS. It is not in the national interest to disclose the quantum of fuel received.

Both the countries have agreed that the nuclear material supplied by China and products and materials derived thereof will be used only for peaceful purposes and will be subject to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

(e) and (f) All our atomic power plants other than Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) use Natural Uranium as fuel which is produced indigenously in adequate quantities. We are importing Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) from China for operating only TAPS. This LEU is received in the form of Uranium Hexaffuoride gas and is converted to fuel assemblies for use in TAPS at Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad. The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has also developed indigenously the technical know-how to produce LEU within the country.

Closure of Nuclear reactors

592. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to close down certain nuclear reactors in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) in what manner closure of the plants is going to affect the nuclear programme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) There are ten nuclear power reactors in operation in India today. Of them, the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit-1 is the first Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) unit built in India, collaboration with Canada. It has a present rated capacity of 100 MWe. The performance of this unit has been affected due to equipment related problems and the unit was shut down for extended periods during the past several years. A final decision, based on techno-economic considerations, on its continued operation is yet to be taken.

(c) Several improvement have been incorporated in the design of subsequent PHWR units and therefore the nuclear power programme will not be affected.

Sale of products of Aristocrat Luggage Company in CSD AI) Canteens

593. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Aristocrat Luggage Company has not been marketing all